

Adult Education Spotlight: Cesar Beltran



Cesar Beltran

Cesar Beltran came to this country from Mexico 1992; he didn't speak English. Two years later he started taking English classes

and later took the GED® Tests. At that time he worked 5 a.m. until 5 p.m. cleaning stables and working with horses as a laborer.

After earning his GED credential, he returned to Mexico and taught English for a few years. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at the Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro. He returned to the Hope area and enrolled in WAGE classes, earning certificates. He will earn a Master's Degree in Clinical/Mental Health in December 2009. Beltran is currently a part-time ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher and works at the Hope Migrant Center. There he assists individuals with education, shelter, and employment.

He encourages others to enroll in ESL classes and earn a GED credential. He says "you only need two things to succeed – discipline and determination."

Arkansas Department of Career Education

formerly the



The Arkansas Department of Career Education funds the Adult Education Division. The Adult Education Division provides programs and services statewide.

Hope Adult Education students Maxine Witherspoon and Johnny Navarrete with teacher, Kim May (center).



Hope Adult Education Center Puts Service to Community First

The focus of the Hope Adult Education Center is on service for the citizens of Hope and the surrounding areas. "We are here to serve them" states Center Director, Charles George. "We want to use all resources to inform the people in the community and let them know we are here to serve them."

Success for the students and the center heavily involves collaboration with other services. The local employment/training program has attracted a number of students that the center may not have otherwise. The center shares the campus with an Even Start program and partners with the GED Testing program at the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope.

Maintaining growth and increasing attendance are goals for the center. The center is working to boost contact hours and progress made by students. The center's staff is committed to those goals. That commitment is exemplified by Kim May, Instructor, who says, "I love to help people and change their lives by helping them earn their GED credential."

Visit

<http://ace.arkansas.gov/adult.html>

for links to previous issues of the
Adult Education Newsletter.

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Above: Charles George, Director,
Hope Adult Education Center

University of Arkansas Community College - Hope GED Testing Program Overview

January 1 – December 31, 2008

Tested: 52
Passed: 44
Pass Rate: 85%

January 1 – August 31, 2009

Tested: 42
Passed: 32
Pass Rate: 76%



Above: Eddra Phillips,
GED Chief Examiner,
UACC-Hope.

AERIS Training

Regional trainings for the Arkansas Adult Education data collection system known as AERIS (Adult Education Reporting Information System) were conducted during the month of August. The trainings were geared to increase user proficiency in system applications and introduce a comprehensive user manual.

Initial training for new users of AERIS was provided at the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC) computer lab.

It is mandated that all federally funded Adult Education and Literacy Programs in Arkansas enter student data in AERIS for record keeping and reporting purposes.



Above: New users participate in AERIS training August 19th in AALRC computer lab.

Project IDEAL Workshop Held

On August 17-20, Brinda Berry (Arkansas Career Education), Emily Barrier (Arkansas Career Education) and Nancy Loftis (Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center) attended the 8th Annual Distance Education Workshop in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Arkansas is a member of Project IDEAL which is a consortium of adult education state programs working together to develop effective distance education programs for adult learners. The Project IDEAL Support Center, where the meeting was held, is located at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. The workshop focused on lessons learned and challenges faced by member states, teacher professional development, means of fostering teacher communication and support, curriculum, technology, and research.

Twelve local adult education programs—Arkansas State University-Newport, Arkansas Technical University, Conway Adult Education, Cossatot Community College-UA, Fayetteville Adult Education, Fort Smith Adult Ed, North Arkansas College, Northwest Arkansas Community College, Ouachita Technical College, Rich Mountain Community College, Stuttgart Adult Education, University of Arkansas Monticello at Crossett—began providing distance learning in January 2009. Five additional programs—Arkadelphia School District, Crawford County Adult Education Center, National Park Community College, Shorter College, South Arkansas Community College—will begin providing distance learning services during the 2009-2010 program year.

ARKANSAS LITERACY COUNCILS, INC. RELEASES STATISTICS

Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc. (ALC) has released statistical data for the fiscal year 2008-09. ALC is the state organization that works to support 45 literacy councils that recruit and train volunteer tutors to help adults improve their basic reading, writing, and math skills. Statistical highlights include the following items.

- Over 13,600 adult students were tutored from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009 – 9,400 in Basic Literacy and 4,200 in English as a Second Language (ESL).
- Basic Literacy students made 6,960 achievements and met 5,551 learning goals. ESL students made 4,227 achievements and met 5,403 learning goals.
- Over 5,500 Arkansans served as volunteer tutors.
- These tutors provided 104,896 hours of instruction; a value of \$2,124,144 (according to Independent Sector, a national nonprofit association which calculates the value of a volunteer hour at \$20.25.)
- Volunteers donated an additional 32,961 hours on pre- and post-lesson preparation - worth \$667,460.
- Other volunteers (3,402) supported literacy councils by serving as board members, helping with special projects, etc. They donated 59,736 hours – worth \$1,209,654. Literacy Councils are contributing over \$4,000,000 to Arkansas' educational and economical development.

The National Literacy Act (Public Law 102-73, July 25, 1991) defines literacy as an individual's ability to read, write, and speak English, and compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and in society, to achieve one's goals, and develop one's knowledge and potential.

